

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW POCKET MOUSE FROM IDAHO.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

The common pocket mouse, *Perognathus parvus* and subspecies, has a wide range in the arid interior from southern Washington south along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada to southeastern California, and eastward through Idaho and Nevada to Wyoming. Slight, irregular, geographic variants in size and color are numerous and several fairly well-marked subspecies have been recognized. The discovery of the new form described below is one of the results of recent field work in the extensive but little known lava fields, in the Snake River desert region of southern Idaho.

Perognathus parvus idahoensis, subsp. nov.

IDAHO POCKET MOUSE.

Type from Echo Crater, 20 miles southwest of Arco, Blaine County, southern Idaho. No. 236,394, ♂ adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection). collected by L. J. Goldman, June 14, 1921. Original number 2752.

Geographic distribution.—Known only from the type locality.

General characters.—Size large; color darkest of the known forms of *Perognathus parvus*; back blackish; lighter element in pelage of upperparts light vinaceous buffy, most like *P. p. parvus* in general tone (not light ochraceous buffy as in *P. p. olivaceus*), the blackish admixture strongly predominant; skull large, and very broad.

Color (type).—Upperparts finely mixed light vinaceous buff¹ and black, the black predominant especially over lower part of back, and the buffy element purest along lateral line of sides; chin, throat, and inner sides of forearms dull whitish; chest pure white to roots of hairs; belly and inner sides of hind legs overlaid with light ochraceous buff; the under color light plumbeous; outer sides of forelimbs dusky, the dark color here continuous with that of sides; heels black; ears blackish, except marginal white spots, which by contrast are conspicuous; feet white; tail clothed above with

¹Ridgway, Color Standards and Nomenclature, 1912.

mixed black and buffy hairs, becoming nearly pure black toward tip, pale buffy below.

Skull.—Essentially like those of *P. p. parvus* and *P. p. olivaceus*, but larger than is typical of either, and decidedly broader, especially across mastoid bullae.

Measurements (type).—Total length, 189; tail vertebrae, 102; hind foot, 24. An adult male topotype, 184; 96; 24. *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 27.5; greatest mastoid breadth, 14.5; interorbital breadth, 5.9; length of nasals, 10.4; greatest width of interparietal, 5.9; maxillary toothrow, 4.

Remarks.—The remarkably dark color of *P. p. idahoensis*, distinctive at a glance, appears to be associated with that of its lava field environment. Additional specimens from the general region of the type locality are likely to reveal a rather extensive range in the unexplored Snake River desert country of southern Idaho. Specimens from southeastern Oregon, assigned to *P. p. parvus*, are rather dark in color and indicate probable intergradation. In dark coloration the form here described contrasts strongly with its pale geographic neighbor, *P. p. clarus*, of eastern Idaho and southwestern Wyoming.

Specimens examined.—Two, from the type locality.